

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus operable from a remote user comprising:

a communication unit which provides a function to interface with a network;

a connection request unit which generates a request to establish a connection between the information processing apparatus and ~~with~~ the network;

an address holder which holds a logical address allotted when the connection between the information processing apparatus and the network is established;

an address reporting unit which sends the allotted logical address to a network node of the remote user;

a server function unit which provides a predetermined service, when the network node of the remote user accesses the apparatus using the allotted logical address, to the node as a client; and

a monitor unit which detects a trigger signal transmitted by a remote node in compliance with a communication protocol which does not require connection to the network,

wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal.

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Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a second communication unit which communicates with an external appliance which is under the control of the apparatus; and

an appliance controller which controls the external appliance via the second communication unit;

wherein the server function unit, as the predetermined service, receives an instruction for the control of the external appliance from the user node and transmits the instruction to the appliance controller and the appliance controller converts the instruction to a control command of the external appliance and sends the command to the appliance via the second communication unit.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus operable from a remote user comprising:

a communication unit which provides a function to interface with a network;

a connection request unit which generates a request to establish a connection between the information processing apparatus and ~~with~~ the network;

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an address holder which holds a logical address allotted when the connection
between the information processing apparatus and the network is established;

an address reporting unit which sends the allotted logical address to a network node
of the remote user;

a server function unit which provides a predetermined service, when the network node
of the remote user accesses the apparatus using the allotted logical address, to the node as a
client; and

a second communication unit which communicates with an external appliance which
is under the control of the apparatus; and

a ~~second~~ monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when status of the external
appliance reported via the second communication unit satisfies a predetermined condition,

wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal
generated by the ~~second~~ monitor unit.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus operable
from a remote user comprising:

a communication unit which provides a function to interface with a network;

a connection request unit which generates a request to establish a connection between the
information processing apparatus and with the network;

an address holder which holds a logical address allotted when the connection

between the information processing apparatus and the network is established;

an address reporting unit which sends the allotted logical address to a network node of the remote user;

a server function unit which provides a predetermined service, when the network node of the remote user accesses the apparatus using the allotted logical address, to the node as a client; and

a ~~third~~ monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when information from a sensor sensing ambient environment satisfies a predetermined condition,

wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the third monitor unit.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a disconnection request unit which disconnects from the network when access from the logical address has been suspended for a predetermined period.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an authentication unit which determines whether the remote node that issued the trigger signal is a user node managed by the apparatus.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

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Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of the claim 3 further comprising a second monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when the status of the external appliance reported via the second communication unit satisfies a predetermined condition, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the second monitor unit.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a second ~~third~~ monitor unit which generates a trigger signal when information from a sensor sensing ambient environment satisfies a predetermined condition, wherein the connection request unit generates the request upon detecting the signal generated by the second ~~third~~ monitor unit.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a disconnection request unit which disconnects from the network when access from the logical address has been suspended for a predetermined period.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) An information processing method operable from a remote user comprising:

- waiting in a stand-by mode in an offline state as an initial state;
- establishing connection with a network upon detecting a predetermined trigger signal;
- receiving and holding a logical address allotted when the connection is established;

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sending the allotted logical address to a network node of the remote user; and
providing a predetermined service, when a the network node of the remote user connects
to the allotted logical address, to the node as a client.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said network is the Internet,
wherein the connection request unit relies on PPP and wherein the logical address is an IP
address.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein said network is the Internet,
wherein the connection relies on PPP and wherein the logical address is an IP address.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the allotted logical
address is sent to the network node of the remote user by an e-mail.